



Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007 – 2013

*by the Joint Technical Secretariat
(state: 02.07.2014)*



Part-financed by the
European Union

The Baltic Sea Region. Did you know that...

- programme area covers approx. 2.4 million km² - almost half of the EU
- population of 110 million amounts to 23% of EU
- average population density is about 46 inhabitants/km (EU 112)
- aggregated GDP is about 16% of the EU



We did it together

11 states,

represented in the **J**oint **P**rogramming **C**ommittee,

prepared and endorsed

the **Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013**



Identity of the programme

- a mainstream Structural Funds programme for the Baltic Sea Region (Objective 3 programme on Territorial Cooperation)
- built on two preceding Community Initiative programmes (Baltic Sea INTERREG IIC & III B)
- addresses issues that call for intervention at transnational level



Specifics of the programme

- The only of 13 transnational co-operation programme with a unique integration of two EU budget lines: ERDF (Objective 3) and ENPI, in terms of:
 - eligible area
 - co-operation priorities
 - implementation rules
- Fundament erected by the Baltic Sea INTERREG IIC & III B programmes but new co-operation priorities and objectives in focus (Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas)
- The programme is expected to boost knowledge-based socio-economic competitiveness of the BSR and its further territorial cohesion



Our method for the programme

- The programme is focused on preparation of investments, which can:
 - improve the territorial potential of the region,
 - minimise the differences in the level of socio-economic development between the western and eastern parts of the region (East-West divide)
 - resolve issues of common concern for all the countries around the Baltic Sea
- The programme aims to involve several pan-Baltic networks for better policies towards an integrated development of the Baltic Sea region and for its better identity in Europe
- The programme incorporates aspects of socio-economic competitiveness (Lisbon), sustainable management of the natural resources (Gothenburg) and of the “EU Territorial Agenda”



Context of the new programme

- considerable differences between the West and East
- common development challenges, e.g.:
 - ✓ concentration of knowledge-intensive activities in and around capitals and metropolitan regions,
 - ✓ growth in road transport,
 - ✓ safety at sea,
 - ✓ pollution of Baltic Sea waters,
 - ✓ energy efficiency.



ENPI component of the programme

- Integration of ENPI has extended the programme eligible area to all regions of North-West Russia and the whole of Belarus
- ENPI CBC co-operation topics prioritised by Russia and Belarus are included in all thematic priorities
- Set up of management and control procedures for the ENPI component is based on the ERDF implementation system but takes into account the ENPI legal framework where needed
- Partners from Belarus can receive funding
- Financing Agreement between EU and Russia not signed – no ENPI funds for Russian partners



Programme area

1. EU Member States (ERDF and ENPI):

Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden and Northern parts of Germany

2. Norway (Norwegian fund)

3. Partner countries (ENPI):

Belarus and North-western regions of Russia (no Financing Agreement signed)



Strategic objective and priorities

1. Fostering innovations



3. Baltic Sea as a common resource



To strengthen the development towards a sustainable, competitive and territorially integrated Baltic Sea Region by connecting potentials over the borders

2. External and internal accessibility



4. Attractive and competitive cities and regions



Prioritised thematic areas:

Priority 1: Fostering innovations across the BSR

- focused on facilitating generation and dissemination of innovations across the BSR
- dedicated to innovations in natural and technical science but also to selected non-technical innovations, such as business services, design and other market-related skills
- targeted at the performance of innovation sources and their links to SMEs, facilitation of transnational transfer of technology and knowledge as well as at making social groups of citizens fitter for generating and absorbing knowledge



Prioritised thematic areas:

Priority 2: Internal and external accessibility of the BSR

- dedicated to improvement in that field by means of transport solutions, and information and communication technology (ICT)
- promotes, in particular, these joint transnational solutions, which overcome functional barriers to diffusion of innovation and traffic flows
- highlights further integration of already existing strategic development zones, spread along the transnational transport corridors in the BSR, as well as creation of new transnational links



Prioritised thematic areas:

Priority 3: Management of the Baltic Sea as a common resource

- concentrates on environmental pollution of the Baltic Sea in a broader framework of a sustainable management of the sea resources
- supports operations aiming at limiting pollution inputs into and pollution impacts on the marine environment
- puts special emphasis on maritime safety
- promotes economic management of open sea areas by means of best available technologies and practices
- gives attention to an integrated development of offshore and coastal areas in the context of climate change



Prioritised thematic areas:

Priority 4: Promoting attractive and competitive cities and regions

- propagates co-operation of metropolitan regions, cities and rural areas for their better attractiveness for citizens and investors
- features action programmes and policies at the BSR level to make cities and regions more competitive engines for economic development.
- strengthens urban-rural partnerships and support a viable economic transformation of BSR areas with smaller and less dense settlements
- special ENPI feature under this priority is joint actions dedicated to the social sphere of regional and city development - exclusively with Russian and Belarusian partners



What do we expect from projects?

- principle of trans-nationality respected
- integrated territorial approach to distinguish from sector initiatives
- preparation of investments of transnational relevance
- emphasis on pre-investment character and pilot investments
- development of transferable results better visible



Who are the project partners?

- Public authorities from national, regional and local levels
- Public equivalent bodies (e.g. research and training institutions, business development institutions and other non-profit organisations)
- ✓ Private (commercial) organisations as additional partners with own financing
- ✓ Within limits, programme funds can be applied for by partners from outside the eligible area



Co-financing rate

Over 220 million euro earmarked by the European Commission and the Government of Norway cover:

- **up to 75%** of eligible project costs generated by partners from Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Finland
- **up to 85%** of eligible project costs generated by partners from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland
- **up to 50%** of eligible project costs generated by partners from Norway
- **up to 90%** of eligible project costs generated by partners from Belarus

Partners from other EU and non-EU areas may join individual projects and benefit from the programme funds (under certain conditions)



How much money in total?

- **208 MEUR** from **E**uropean **R**egional **D**evelopment **F**und
- **8.8 MEUR** from **E**uropean **N**eighbourhood and **P**artnership **I**nstrument
- **6 MEUR** from Norwegian national funding

Total = 222,8 MEUR

Plus own co-funding from project partners



Quality requirements – guidelines for project makers

- jointly address relevant needs and deficiencies identified in your project area
- demonstrate the added value through joint actions
- raise policy-making competence in the participating institutions
- produce durable results – think of investments of transnational relevance
- specify planned achievements and quantify expected targets from the outset
- contribute to an effective marketing of results and benefits achieved by means of EU Structural Funds



Concept of 'Strategic Projects'

Such a project shall respect all the following criteria:

- address a vital problem for the stable development of the overall Baltic Sea region (as specified in the programme document)
- encompass the whole BSR or relevant parts of it by its geographical area or area of influence
- contain an investment or local demonstration stage in the planned activities
- have a strong political support at the national level – with national authorities endorsing policy recommendations developed under such a project and taking responsibility for implementation of the prepared investments



Projects contribute to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region



Implementation structure of the programme

- built on the experience of the preceding Baltic Sea Region INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme and adjusted to the legal regulations for both, the Structural Funds and the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument
- consisting of a number of institutions responsible for proper management and control of the programme implementation progress and funds spent:
 - **Monitoring Committee**, supported by **national sub-committees**
 - single **Managing Authority** (Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein), assisted by the **Joint Technical Secretariat** (offices in Rostock and Riga)
 - **Certifying Authority** (Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein), certifying legality of expenditures
 - **Audit Authority** (land of Schleswig-Holstein), assisted by a **Group of Auditors**



State after 5 calls of project applications (May 2013)

... 90 Transnational co-operation projects approved

215 Million EUR committed to projects...

... no more calls will be opened



90 transnational co-operation projects

Priority 1. Fostering innovations



28 projects



Priority 3. Baltic Sea as a common resource



21 projects



**“To make the
Baltic Sea region an attractive place
to invest, work and live in”**

18 projects



23 projects



Priority 2. External and internal accessibility



Priority 4. Attractive and competitive cities and regions

